

**Whereas**, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives pause to recognize Natasha Figueroa of Joplin, Missouri, who has been named Youth of the Year by The Boys and Girls Clubs of Southwest Missouri; and

**Whereas**, Natasha and her family moved to the Show-Me State from Puerto Rico at the end of her sixth grade year, since which time she has become fluent in the English language and has adapted to the culture in her new home; and

**Whereas**, a remarkable young woman who spends many hours each day looking after her siblings and helping her mother care for their home, Natasha Figueroa is a sophomore at Joplin High School where she is active in the A+ Program, the Concert Choir, and the Learn and Serve America Club; and

**Whereas**, a motivated student who is committed to working hard, earning good grades, and participating in extracurricular activities, Natasha Figueroa has initiated fundraisers for The Boys and Girls Club through her involvement in the Learn and Serve America Club that have included selling candy bars and supporting other school fundraisers that have brought money into the Club's budget; and

**Whereas**, Natasha is a Junior Staff member at The Boys and Girls Club where she has performed many service projects, including serving ice cream sundaes to kids at the Kids Café, fixing up different areas of the Club, corresponding with elderly citizens, participating in the Community Plus Reading and Smart Moves programs, and working at the Salvation Army and The Ronald McDonald House; and

**Whereas**, a devout Christian who attends the Joplin Family Worship Center, Natasha Figueroa has achieved all of this and more with the love and admiration of her mother and stepfather, Roxana and Luis Viquez; her sister, Anna; and her four brothers, Francisco, Edgardo, Jonathan, and Gabby:

**Now, therefore, be it resolved** that we, the members of the Missouri House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, unanimously join in extending our most hearty congratulations to Natasha Figueroa at this proud moment of well-deserved distinction, and in wishing her only the very best as she continues to pursue her dreams of becoming a model and continuing her education at the college of her choice where she plans to study secondary education; and

**Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Natasha Figueroa, as a mark of our esteem for her.

Offered by Representative Marilyn Ruestman, Dist. #131  
Representative Steve Hunter, Dist. #127  
Representative Bryan Stevenson, Dist. #128  
Representative Ron Richard, Dist. #129  
Representative Kevin Wilson, Dist. #130

I, Catherine L. Hanaway, Speaker of the House of Representatives, Ninety-second General Assembly, First Regular Session, do certify that the above is a true and correct copy of House Resolution No. 1465, adopted April 7, 2003.